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For Immediate Release
June 22, 2004

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Sen. Bishop calls for location list of all landfills for local leaders

LANSING – Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, is calling for the state to locate all landfills, whether open or closed, and provide that information to local government leaders.

Bishop is sponsoring Senate Resolution 271, which urges the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to identify landfills in the state, particularly those closed or abandoned before 1978 when stricter state laws took affect.

“There’s too much we don’t know about landfills in our state,” Bishop said. “I want local leaders to know exactly where a landfill is, what it stores, who owns it and how long it’s been open or closed.”

In 2000, a Rochester Hills home exploded because of a build up of methane gas, which is produced by decomposing organic material. No one was killed in the blast, but 11 other homes nearby had to be evacuated. Methane seeped into the home’s basement before it exploded.

The resolution reads, in part, “Old landfills represent a serious threat to public health, especially to water supplies. Creating a comprehensive list of all landfills in the state — both operating and closed — and providing it to all relevant governmental entities would be a major step of progress for our state.”

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